

## CAGNEY

that's where it begins for me  
old black & white quickies  
from Warner Brothers  
how could I know  
about his red hair & blue eyes?  
it was hardly the point  
the guy was a dynamo  
exuberance  
humor  
I'd never seen anything like him  
the films were dated  
even in the '50s  
but he wasn't  
right about the same time -  
a new film in Cinemascope  
was in town  
with an older Cagney  
just as dynamic  
but several shades darker  
Man of a Thousand Faces  
I was enthralled  
same guy  
it was something  
that I've never quite gotten over  
I sent him a poem about it  
he responded  
with a postcard  
of one of his paintings  
signed & dated  
one of life's genuine thrills

## BUSTER KEATON MAY HAVE BEEN A COMEDIAN TO SOME

he didn't smile or laugh  
comedy is very serious  
to comedians  
he actually broke his neck  
in one of his films  
he was all set  
had his own crew  
no pressure  
he could work loosely  
wait for ideas  
make very fine films in peace  
until his mentor moved over to MGM  
he had to follow  
it was straight down from there  
unlike Chaplin  
Keaton was not sentimental  
it keeps him looking very fresh 70 yrs later